

OKA asks Chungbuk Province to participate in World Korean Business Convention in Atlanta, USA

OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk meets with Gov. Kim Young-hwan, explains projects to support resettlement of overseas Koreans in Korea

OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk visited the Chungbuk Provincial Office and met with Gov. Kim Young-hwan on Jan. 16, saying, "I hope that the 23rd World Korean Business Convention held this coming April in Atlanta, USA, will be a bridgehead for small and medium-sized enterprises in the Chungcheong region to expand overseas."

The OKA will host the event in Atlanta from April 17-20, the second time it will be held overseas after the 21st WKBC in Orange County, California, in 2023.

At the event, the OKA will provide export consultation opportunities with local buyers to Korean SMEs, startups and young entrepreneurs with promising startup items in



OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (L) and Kim Young-hwan, governor of North Chungcheong Province, pose for a photo.

order to actively support their entry into the U.S. market.

Lee also explained the OKA's major policies and business plans to support the settlement of overseas Koreans living in Korea to Kim and asked for his active support and cooperation towards Koreans living in North Chungcheong Province.

The OKA will conduct education for Korean youth on understanding our overseas compatriots in order to build a national consensus on supporting Korean compatriots and run education programs

tailored to Korean compatriots, as well as build infrastructure for the settlement and resettlement of overseas Koreans in Korea.

OKA and Incheon Nat'l Univ. run overseas Korean education and training programs

MOU signed on mutual cooperation in employment support and recruitment

The Overseas Koreans Agency will collaborate with Incheon National University (INU) to expand the planning and operation of overseas Korean education and training programs. The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to this effect on Jan. 17 at the main building of INU in Songdo, Incheon, with OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk and INU President Park Jong-tae in attendance.

The MOU includes ▲ Planning and operating education or training programs for overseas Koreans, ▲ Planning and operating employment support programs for overseas Koreans, ▲ Planning and operating recruitment support programs for overseas Korean companies and ▲ Planning and operating educational programs for overseas Koreans living in Korea.



OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (L) and Incheon National University President Park Jong-tae pose for a photo with their memorandum of understanding.

Under the MOU, the two organizations will establish a joint cooperation system to promote mutual development, and help the overseas Korean community and Korea develop together.

Through this agreement, the OKA will continue to expand various education and training, employment and recruitment support programs for overseas Koreans, and establish sound policies to foster the overseas Korean identity and strengthen the global Korean network.

"This MOU was signed to strengthen the education of overseas Koreans and to internalize the support projects for the next generation of overseas compatriots, and we look forward to making a new leap forward through cooperation between the OKA and INU in the field of overseas Koreans," Lee said.

Registration for 23rd World Korean Business Convention in Atlanta begins

Website will open Jan. 15, allowing registration for exhibitors and general visitors

The Overseas Koreans Agency opened registration on Jan. 15 for the 23rd World Korean Business Convention (WKBC), which will be held from April 17-20 at the Gas South Convention Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

The convention, co-hosted by the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA, is the largest gathering of the overseas Korean business community, with more than 3,000 participants from Korea and abroad.

The first round of registration, which begins today, will be conducted through the 23rd WKBC's official website (www.wkbc.us). The first round of registration is open to companies wishing to exhibit at the event, as well as general visitors who wish to observe the event.

Following the first round of registration, a second round of registration will be held for domestic and foreign buyers who wish to participate in one-on-one business meetings, and the schedule will be announced on the website.

For inquiries regarding the event, please contact the event secretariat at 02-303-6965 or later at www.hansang.net.

Through this year's convention, the OKA aims to strengthen regional and sectoral linkages between overseas Korean businesspeople to proactively respond to global economic crises and actively promote exports.



A text message providing information on the 23rd World Korean Business Convention

'I will continue to learn Korean,' Korean Japanese teenagers say after visiting homeland

16 students invited by the OKA to deepen their understanding of Korea through history and cultural experiences

The Overseas Koreans Agency revealed that the next generation of Korean Japanese compatriots, who participated in a training program in their home country, vowed to continue learning Korean in unison at the completion ceremony.

Sixteen young adults and teenagers from various parts of Japan participated in the "Understanding Korea Course for Koreans in Japan," which began Dec. 28 and ended Jan. 5 at the Kyungin University of Education. The program was designed to strengthen ties with their home country through Korean language and history education and cultural experiences.

Participants learned Hangeul, made stamps with their names on them and learned Korean music through traditional instruments.



The next generation of Korean Japanese participating in the "Understanding Korea Course for Koreans in Japan" training program

They also visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to see the reality of the division of their home country and to empathize with the historical pain and the value of peace.

In particular, in the traditional instruments course, Min Young-chi, a third-generation Korean Japanese musician who is active in the field of Korean traditional music and percussion, served as a lecturer for these young students with the same background as himself.

After graduating from National Gugak High School, he majored in percussion and won the top prize in the Suljanggu category at the World Samulnori Competition and pioneered a genre called Shin-hanak, which fuses Korean traditional music with jazz.



OKA commissioner sends condolences to LA Korean association; ‘We will actively support (wildfire victims)’

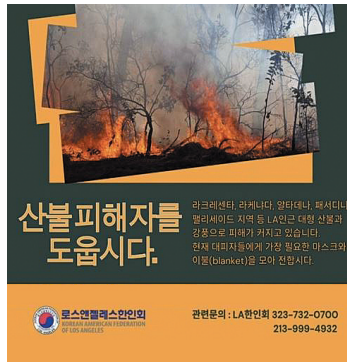
Victims of Jeju Air passenger plane tragedy also remembered; ‘Deepest sympathies to the bereaved families’

The Overseas Koreans Agency announced on Friday that Commissioner Lee Sang-duk called Korean American Federation of Los Angeles President Robert Ahn to convey his sympathies for the victims of the spreading wildfires.

Lee conveyed Korea’s concern over the wildfires and encouraged the Korean Association to actively carry out relief efforts after hearing the status of the damage from Ahn.

“We will actively support the LA Korean community to every possible extent if they request necessary relief supplies through their diplomatic missions,” Lee said.

“The Korean Association has organized a relief drive and delivered 100,000 masks to the affected areas, and other Korean American communities in the region are also sending



A notice by the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles regarding the collection of supplies to support victims of the Los Angeles wildfires

donations,” Ahn said. “It is currently difficult to determine the exact amount of damage, but it is expected that the Korean American community will also suffer.” He thanked the OKA for its concern.

Prior to this, the OKA sent condolence messages to the victims of the Jeju Air passenger plane disaster that occurred on Dec. 29 last year through a pop-up window on the agency’s website and social network messages on Dec. 30.

“We mourn the loss of life and extend our deepest sympathies to the bereaved families, and the government is fully mobilizing all its resources to assist in the recovery and support efforts,” the OKA statement said.

OKA and Inha University collaborate to train experts in overseas Korean policy

MOU signed Jan. 24; academic exchanges and networking related to overseas Korean policy will also take place

The Overseas Koreans Agency will actively cooperate with Inha University to train experts on policy for overseas Koreans.

The two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to this effect Jan. 24 at the OKA headquarters in Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, with OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk and Inha University President Cho Myeong-woo in attendance.

Under the MOU, the two organizations pledged to work together to foster experts in overseas Korean policy and to establish a system of mutual exchanges and cooperation for the effective formulation and implementation of policies for overseas Koreans.

The agreement includes cooperation on ▲ Operating a curriculum to foster experts in overseas Korean policy and ▲ Establishing academic exchanges and networks related to overseas Korean policy.

“Inha University was founded through the money raised by first-generation Hawaiian immigrants who even through their arduous labor collected funds for the education of their country,” OKA



OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (L) and Inha University President Cho Myeong-woo pose with their memorandum of understanding.

Commissioner Lee Sang-duk said. “We hope that this agreement with Inha University will lead to cooperation in various fields, including systematically fostering overseas Korean policy experts and expanding the overseas Korean industry base.”

